.lurch iy/4; *(4)* Air Services in Sep:em-ber 1991; (5*)* Standby credit to the Royal goverment ot tinuiaj \n March *L9J5,* jnd 16) u.do-Bhuian Survey Collooorat on i'io,ecis in March 19V6.

Agreements have also been signed between tlie two countries in respejt of the following major projects being currently M:', up jn Bhutan:—

«i rala Hydroelectric Project (1020 MW): A bilateral Agreement tor llihis Project between Oovernmeni of JnJia and Government of Bhutan was signed in March 19%.

(ii) Kurjchu Hydro-electric Project (4J j\V): The bilate.al Agreement lor this Project was signed in February 1994.

(iii) D^-r.gsum Cement Plant kupa- city 0.5 million tons per year). The Agreement :Jr the aettfeig up o." trie DunTsum cement plant signed in March 1996

(d) India enjoy* a close and trouble fire relaUoaibip wuh Bhutan character!. •f M-IH at various level, and economic corporation in a w>de nag* >t sectors, to mutual benefit.

Possibilities of indina becoming a perment member of security council

2502 SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR will PRIME MINISTER to peleased to state

(11 whether p atio~~rta~~ to ~~become~~ a permanent ~~until~~ of iSe l'lpowarlul Secant? t'ousttl it the fonhcom e«ton ef rta Untied Nations Genrrsl Aantoabt*. to be held to *WI* at$_c$ certain;

if so. Ike detail, thereef

• nether Government propane to adopt pw«t*t etratejtoi to tacVie o-tt moves of our niigaaaari aad jQaw toatoMr a—stria, of UNO aad idi if so, the details thereof aad if not, t le reason tbe.efor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMMT KAMI A SlNHAi: (a) 10 (di Discussions on UN Se.unty Council reform, including the espans.on m iho BtnoMer of perrfantiii and non-perm*cii; members, a'e con jnusig. The mandate of the Open Ended Working Group set up r»y itie UN General Assembly oae betti extended by ano.her >ear, wisN enable, ji <o surmii ii$_s$ repoei, including "any eg eed reccrnmen latins" by the end of the -*-nd Session o.' the IN General Assembly The Government keep, the ii-bjCUion under ,onstam MljcV, taking in-io account the posit ion, adopted by una Non-Aligned Movement, the various other piofvssals under c»n,ideraiion and the evoVsvng SCCBMS*. We trow unto-scored the need for a eoa-diccnaiinilory tea in ibe aale.tioa of nest permanent members vad adoption «f global criteria for their selection.

Indina s Represetatins in security council

M1RI RAHASRIHARI BARIK P K I M i vtisisn R be ~~pit~~ and Is Meat

ia) whether the Secant) Oaawl pro-poaes to etec> Use Permanent Mem~~ber~~s, with a view to broaden me the repreara-. the devaloping world,

whether India « one of the-st mtione in the devetopaag v*oetd; and f so, *tbt* efforts sssade by the Government to represent Aate m the aaCaai'T Couacfl aa a Pe~~rman~~t Maateer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) to (c) Discussions on UN Security Council reform, including the expansion in the number of permanent and non-permanent members are continuing. A number of proposals are under consideration. df argiaaai. an aadar a~~v~~ail I

a leading developing country, India has put forward her candidature for permanent membership and has been participating actively in the deliberations of the Open Ended Working Group set up by the UN General Assembly. The mandate of the Open Ended Working Group has been extended by another year, so as to enable it to submit its report, including "any agreed recommendations", by the end of the 52nd session of the UN General Assembly. India believes that the selection of new permanent members should be done on global rather than on regional basis, on well-established global criteria and on a non-discriminatory basis.

Discussion on POW issue in Indo-Pak Talks

2504. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI
SHRIMATI ANANDI BEN JETHABHAI PATEL

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quite a large number of Indian soldiers of 1971 war captured by Pakistan are languishing in Pakistani jails; if so, the number of such POWs;

(b) the reasons for not including such soldiers in the POW exchange deal with that country;

(c) whether this matter was discussed with Pakistan in the last Indo-Pak talks held recently in Delhi and Islamabad; if so, what was the outcome thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would take up this issue with the Pakistan Government during the next round of talks; if not, how Government propose to get them released at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) During the 1971 war, 552 Indian soldiers were taken prisoners of war by Pakistan. All these soldiers have been repatriated to India. Subsequently Government were informed about the 54 missing Indian soldiers. Their cases were taken up with the Government of Pakistan as and when they were brought to Government's notice. Government of Pakistan maintains that there are no such Indian defence personnel in its custody.

(c) and (d) The issue of Indian Prisoners of War (POWs) in Pakistan custody was taken up at the recent bilateral exchanges. Government would continue to pursue the matter with the Government of Pakistan.

Orientation to the Officers in Commercial wings of Indian Missions

2505. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in The Times of India, dated the 2nd July, 1997, entitled "Missions abroad told to focus on trade, tourism";

(b) whether the officers posted to the commercial wings of Indian Missions abroad are given suitable business orientation to handle trade and commerce matters;

(c) if so, the details of such training etc. and how are these officers selected while posting;

(d) whether any cases of inept handling of business proposals by the Indian Mission Officials have come to notice; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken to make the officers more responsive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.